

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CTY HALL, MERCHANTS QUAY, LIMERICK ON TUESDAY 3rd MAY 2016 at 1.30 PM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor Noel Gleeson

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors: Daniel Butler, Seamus Browne, Stephen Keary, Joe Leddin, Seighin O'Ceallaigh, Cian Prendeville, Eddie Ryan.

SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

John Walsh, Agriculture/Farming

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Economic Development & Planning (Dr. Pat Daly), Senior Executive Officer (Pat Fitzgerald), Senior Planner (Liam Conneally), A/Senior Planner Forward Planning (Stephane Duclot), Senior Executive Planner (Maria Woods), Senior Executive Planner (Kieran Reeves), CEO Innovate Limerick (Mike Cantwell), Administrative Officer, LEO (Anthony Coleman), Senior Social Worker (Seamus O'Connor), Researcher (Eileen Humphries), Clerical Officer (Lorraine Conway).

APOLOGIES:

Cllrs James Collins, Liam Galvin

Item 1.

To adopt the minutes of the SPC meeting held on 24th November 2015

The draft minutes as circulated were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Eddie Ryan, seconded by Cllr Seighin O'Ceallaigh.

Matters Arising

The Chairperson apologised for the delay in holding of the meeting. The delay was caused by timing of the general election in February and his unexpected unavailability since then.

Members congratulated Cllr Maria Byrne and Paul Gavan, Kieran O'Donnell on their election to Seanad Eireann

Item 2.

To consider the Objectives and Actions of the Draft Economic and Community Plan

Eileen Humphries introduced the draft plan to the members. The plan contains 9 high level goals in the economic, social and physical/environment areas with the objective of enhancing the well being and quality of life for the citizens of Limerick. The SPC will be part of the monitoring process of the Plan.

The members generally welcomed the plan. Many issues were raised by the members, including; the consultation process, broadband connectivity in rural areas, town and village development, infrastructure funding, role of the leader companies, EU Projects, and air quality. Queries were also raised regarding the monitoring of the plan objectives, the availability and the process for drawing down funds from the Rural Development Fund.

The queries raised by the members were addressed by Eileen Humphries and Seamus O'Connor.

On the proposal of Cllr Joe Leddin and seconded by Cllr Seamus Browne the Objectives and Actions of the draft Economic and Community Plan were adopted.

Item 3

Deferred Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Browne, Collins (M), Foley, Galvin, Scanlon, and Sheahan (J).

We will move at the next meeting that this Council calls on the Government to introduce a Tax Incentive Scheme to encourage people to live in rural towns and villages.

The Chairperson read the replies received from the Taoiseach's Office and the Office of the Minister for Finance. Members asked that the response be circulated. This was agreed.

Item 4.

To Note the New Directorate Structure

Pat Daly stated that under the new corporate structure two directorates will support the core work of the SPC i.e. Economic Development and Service Operations. He stated that Forward Planning now resides in the Economic directorate and Planning Management/Enforcement etc resides in the Service Operations directorate.

There was some discussion regarding the role of the committee and Council meetings in general. It was felt that the SPC needs to move to a more strategic level. The SPC should take the lead in advancing policies and practices that will ensure that the Council is 'ahead of the game'. Mention was made of a master planning exercise for the Cleaves site. The meeting agendas should reflect this approach. It was also suggested that the SPC would receive presentations from outside agencies when appropriate.

Item 5

To Note 1) LEO Annual Report 2015 2) LEO Limerick Local Development Plan 2016

Anthony Coleman spoke to the Committee on these items. He outlined the operation of LEO in 2015 in the areas of enterprise awareness, enterprise culture, job creation, advice, mentoring and training. Forty projects were grant aided (€808,362) during the year culminating in the creation of seventy jobs.

In relation to the 2016 Plan it was noted that Enterprise Ireland funding was reduced. Additional funding is being sought for all programmes. The 2016 Plan is consistent with the Mid West Action Plan for Jobs. He outlined the initiatives to be progressed 2016 in Limerick Food Strategy.

Issues were raised by Councillors around Food Strategy including branding, incubation space, the appointment of a Food Development Manager, Kitchen Units.

Mike Cantwell informed the meeting that there was a shortage of available Food Units in the City. He also confirmed that a Food Development manager is to be appointed who will progress the branding of the local produce as well as doing an audit of available suitable food premises.

Item 6

A.O.B.

Next Meeting to be held on Tuesday 14th June 2016 at 2pm in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Merchants Quay

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Secretary

Date:

Date: